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Message Text

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44
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OPR-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 EUR-25

NIC-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /147 W
---------- 076589
R 301315 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5676
INFO USCINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINS, PE
SUBJECT: RIOT- TORN CHIMBOTE TENSE BUT CALM WITH
CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES SUSPENDED

REF: LIMA 3526

SUMMARY: CHIMBOTE RIOTS WOUND DOWN FRIDAY, BUT TENSION
REMAINS. FISHWORKERS' DISPUTE THERE HAS CAUSED FIRST
OPEN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CGTP AND CTRP. END SUMMARY.

1. RIOT REPORTED REFTEL CONTINUED MAY 25 WITH PRESS
REPORTING ADDITIONAL FOUR PERSONS SHOT DURING ATTACK ON POLICE
STATION, BRINGING PUBLICLY REPORTED TOLL TO ONE DEAD
AND DOZEN OR SO GUNSHOT WOUNDS IN ADDITION TO UNSPECIFIED
NUMBER NON- BALLISTIC WOUNDED. SINAMOS OFFICE IN A
SUBURBAN PUEBLO JOVEN HAD FILES BURNED AND WAS PARTLY
DESTROYED BY MOV (THIS APPARENTLY IN ADDITION TO SINAMOS
OFFICE REPORTED ATTACKED IN REFTEL) AND PANAM HIGHWAY
WAS BLOCKED FOR SEVERAL HOURS. SUSPENSION OF CONSTITU-
TIONAL GUARANTEES MAY 25, IMPOSITION OF CURFEW AND
APPARENTLY CALMING STATEMENTS BY STEELWORKER LEADERS
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AND DEPARTMENTAL LABOR FEDERATIN ACCOMPANIED REDUCTION
OR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE LATE THAT DAY.

2. STEELWORKERS CONTINUING STRIKE WITH GOP- OWNER PLANT
OCCUPIED BY MARINES. CONTROL ROOM FLOODED AND DAMAGED
MAY 28 IN POSSIBLE ACT OF SABOTAGE. NATIONAL LEADERS
OF MOSCOW- COMMUNIST CGTP TRAVELED TO CHIMBOTE,
CONFERRED WITH STEELWORKERS AND ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED
AVERT FURTHER CONFRONTATION WITH GOP ON PART THEIR
ADHERENTS, WHILE CGTP ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENT BACKING
LOCAL DEMANDS OF STEELWORKERS AND SUPPORTING ANTI-
FRANCO BACA REBELS AMONG CHIMBOTE FISHWORKERS. CRUZADO
OF CTP CANCELLED PLANS TO GO CHIMBOTE TO CONFER WITH
LEADERS OF DEPARTMENTAL FEDERATION AFTER INFORMANT
THERE TOLD HIM HE WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED IF HE
ENTERED TOWN.

3. CHIMBOTE RIOT HAS PROVOKED FIRST OPEN CONFRONTATION
(AT LEAST SINCE JANUARY) BETWEEN CGTP AND GOP- BACKED
CTRP. CTRP SECGEN BOSSIO (HIMSELF FROM FISHWORKERS)
AND NATIONAL CTRP- AFFILIATED FISHWORKERS FEDERATION
(WHICH ALONG WITH CHAUFFEURS IS PRINCIPAL CTRP BASTION)
ENEGETICALLY DEFENDED LOCAL CHIEF BACA, LABELING HIS
OPPONENTS AS COUNTER- REVOLUTIONARY, WHILE CGTP CALLED
BACA A COUNTER- REVOLUNTIONARY AND DEMANDED HIS OUSTER.
(PERHAPS COINCIDENTIALLY, CTRP' S DAILY MOUNTHPICE
NUEVA CRONICA HAS IN LAST WEEK OR TWO BEEN SOUNDING
ALMOST MODERATE NOTE, WHILE CGTP- AFFILIATED
EXPRESO HAS IF ANYTHING STEPPED UP ITS RADICAL LEFTIST
BOMBAST). THOUGH CTRP AND CGTP ALSO DIFFERED ON
AREQUIPA GENERAL STRIKE A FEW WEEKS AGO, THEIR POSITIONS
WERE NOT THEN IN DIRECT CONFLICT.

4. COMMENT: THE STRAINS OF SUPPORTING THE MILGOV
(OBVIOUSLY UNPOPULAR AMONG THE PCP/ CGTP' S TRADITIONAL
SUPPORTING GROUPS) ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW. MORE SIGNS
OF DISAFFECTION WITH MILGOV SINCE REFTEL CAN BE SEEN
IN SMALL RIOT WITH BURNING OF TRUCK LATE LAST WEEK
BY LEFTIST SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN LIMA AND
WHAT APPEARS TO BE MASSIVE VOTE BY LIMA' S TEACHERS
AGAINST COMMUNIST/ CGTP/ GOP CANDIDATES IN LIMA TEACHERS
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CO- OP ELECTION YESTERDAY. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY
SUSTANTIAL MODERATION IN MILGOV' S LEFTWARD COURSE
WOULD SEEM LIKELY TO CRACK THIS COMMUNIST/ MILGOV
MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE. ON OTHER HAND, MILGOV,
WITH CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES SUSPENDED FOUR SEPARATE
AREAS (PUNO, MOQUEQUA, AREQUIPA AND CHIMBOTE) AND
DISTURBANCES FROM DISSIDENT MOSCO COMMUNISTS AS WELL

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AS APRISTAS AND ULTRA- LEFTISTS, MUST BY NOW BE WONDERING
HOW MUCH VALUE ITS ALLIANCE WITH THE PCP/ CGTP HAS IN
KEEPING LABOR AND STUDENTS QUIET.
BELCHER

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